

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02050 142145Z

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ACTION EA-14

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR JA US

SUBJECT: NIHON KEIZAI\*1 DISCUSSES QUESTION OF NEW AMERICAN  
AMBASSADOR

SUMMARY: RESPECTED CONSERVATIVE VERNACULAR DAILY NIHON KEIZAI  
MORNING FEBRUARY 11 TOOK UP QUESTION OF NOMINATION OF  
NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN IN ARTICLE REVIEWING BACK-  
GROUND FACTORS AND SPECULATING ON POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF  
ALLEGED DELAY. ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT PROLONGED VACANCY IS BEING  
VIEWED HERE AS EMBARRASSMENT TO GOJ, ESPECIALLY SINCE HIATUS  
HAS BEEN CITED BY LDP YOUNG TURKS OF SEIRANKAI AS EVIDENCE OF  
COOLING OF US.-JAPAN RELATIONS WHICH THEY ARE ATTRIBUTING TO  
FAILURES OF GOJ FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LEAD PARAGRAPH OF FEBRUARY 11 STORY ON QUESTION OF  
NOMINATION OF NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, NIHON KEIZAI  
NOTED DEPARTURE OF FORMER AMBASSADOR INGERSOLL NOVEMBER 17  
AND REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AT TIME OF  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF INGERSOLL NOMINATION AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
THAT SUCCESSOR WOULD BE NAMED WITHIN THREE WEEKS.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 02050 142145Z

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS DECIDED TO

SEEK CANDIDATE FROM OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT AND HAS ALREADY APPROACH-  
ED TWO OR THREE PERSONS. ARTICLE SPECULATES THAT HE HAS FAILED TO  
PERSUADE SUITABLE CANDIDATES TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT BECAUSE  
OF ALLEGED EFFECTS OF WATERGATE. MOFA REPORTED AS NOT  
HAVING SLIGHTEST IDEA AT PRESENT TIME OF LIKELY PROPECT  
FOR APPOINTMENT.

3. ALTHOUGH NIHON KEIZAI EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THREE  
MONTH VACANCY NOT EXCESSIVE, PER SE, WHEN COMPARED WITH RECENT  
YEAR-LONG VACANCY IN MOSCOW, OR EVEN WITH SIX-MONTH (SIC)  
DELAY IN NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR MEYER TO SUCCEED  
AMBASSADOR JOHNSON IN 1969, IT SAID THAT GOJ NEVERTHELESS  
COULD NO LONGER PASS OFF PROLONGED DELAY IN SELECTION  
OF NEW AMBASSADOR AS CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SUSUMU NIKAI DO  
DID RECENTLY, WHEN HE SAID APPOINTMENT IS MATTER FOR U.S.  
TO DECIDE AND ONE ON WHICH GOJ IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT.

4. ONE CAUSE FOR CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERICS, ACCORDING  
TO ARTICLE, IS FACT THAT LDP YOUNG TURKS IN SEIRANKAI  
HAVE SEIZED UPON MATTER IN PARIAL JUSTIFICATION OF THEIR  
OPPOSITION TO GOJ (READ TANAKA-OHIRA) FOREIGN POLICY.  
PAPER QUOTED EMOTIONAL CHARGE BY SEIRANKAI MEMBER MASA AKI  
NAKAYAMA IN TURBULENT FEBRUARY 1 MEETING OF LDP EXECUTVE  
BOARD TO DISCUSS JAPAN-CHINA CIVIL AIR QUESTION, THAT US-  
JAPAN RELATIONS, WHICH SHOULD SERVE AS PRICIPAL AXIS OF  
JAPAN'S DIPLOMACY, HAVE COOLED BECAUSE OF GOJ FOREIGN  
POLICY LINE OF LOOKING ONLY TO PEKING AND ARABS, AND THAT  
THIS IS PROVED BY US DELAY IN NAMING NEW AMBASSADOR.

5. NIHON KEIZAI ALLUDED TO BROADER SEIRANKAI PURPOSE  
RELATED TO 1975 LDP PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND REPORTED  
THAT FONMIN OHIRA HAS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY NAKAYAMA  
OUTBURST. IN FACT, FONMIN REPORTEDLY TOOK TIME FEBRUARY 8  
TO RECEIVE FONOFF BRIEFING ON STATUS OF AMBASSADORIAL  
APPOINTMENT IN MIDST OF HECTIC PREPARATION FOR  
WASHINGTON OIL CONFERENCE AND COPING WITH GUERRILLA INCIDENTS  
IN SINGAPORE AND KUWAIT.

6. COMMENT: NIHON KEIZAI ARTICLE IS FIRST  
EXTENSIVE TREATMENT OF QUESTION OF APPOINTMENT OF NEW  
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US AMBASSADOR BY DAILY VERNACULAR PRESS. EARLIER, RESPECTED  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT KAZUSHIGA HIRASAWA  
STATED IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE JAPAN TIMES OF FEBRUARY 1 THAT  
SECRETARY KISSINGER UNABLE TO FIND RIGHT MAN FOR POST  
PRECISELY BECAUSE HE ATTACHES SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO  
JAPAN. HIRASAWA'S STATED INTENTION WAS TO COUNTER ARTICLE  
CARRIED IN SENSATIONALIST VERNACULAR WEEKLY MAGAZINE  
THAT SECRETARY WISHED TO LEAVE POST VACANT BECAUSE OF

POLICY DIFFERENCES. SUBJECT HAS COME INCREASINGLY TO FORE  
RECENTLY IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS EMBOFFS HAVE HAD WITH  
GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND BUSINESS CONTACTS. COMMENTS  
WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY HAVE NOT  
EVIDENCED ANY CONCERN THAT DELAY MAY REFLECT ANY USG  
DISPLEASURE WITH GOJ OVER POLICY DIFFERENCES. RATHER,  
FOCUS OF CONCERN HAS SEEMED TO BE ON PROPRIETIES -- I.E.  
DELAY IS NOT BEFITTING IMPORTANCE WHICH US PRESUMABLY  
ATTACHES TO RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN -- AND EMBARRASSING  
POSITION IN WHICH THIS PLACES GOJ.  
SHOESMITH

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